

Resources on the Presidency and the Federal Agencies

Cabinets and Counselors: The President and the Executive Branch, 2nd ed. CQ Press. 1997.

Details the history, structure, and functions of the Cabinet, White House staff, supporting executive branch organizations such as Office of Management and Budget, and every federal agency. Also profiles government corporations and discusses presidential commissions.

CIS Index to Presidential Executive Orders and Proclamations. 22 vols. Congressional Information Service. 1987.

Indexes more than 75,000 presidential documents issued between 1789 and 1983 (the *Federal Register Index* provides access to executive orders and proclamations issued after 1983). The documents are indexed in five ways: by subjects and organizations; by personal names; chronologically; by interrelated orders and proclamations; and by site and document numbers.

Code of Federal Regulations. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Revised annually and issued quarterly. Also [available](#) on the Web.

The ***Code of Federal Regulations*** (CFR) is an annual codification of the final federal agency regulations published in the ***Federal Register*** (see entry). The CFR is divided into 50 titles that represent broad topical areas subject to federal regulation, and is made up of approximately 200 volumes that are revised at least once a year and issued on a quarterly basis. Title 3 of the CFR contains finding lists and the full text of all presidential proclamations, executive orders, memorandums, and directives issued each year. Title 3 is especially useful for finding the text of executive orders issued by presidents.

The Complete Book of U.S. Presidents, 5th ed. William DeGregorio. Wings Books. 1997.

Provides biographical, political, and career information on all the presidents through the end of President Clinton's first term. Some of the topical areas in the profiles include personality, career before the presidency, campaign and the issues, cabinet officials and significant programs, praise and criticism, quotes of the president, and books by and about the president. A good quick overview of presidents and their administrations.

A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1927. 20 vols. Edited by James D. Richardson. Bureau of National Literature. 1928. Out of print.

An unofficial compilation of presidential materials from Washington to Coolidge that includes presidential proclamations, annual messages, veto messages, addresses, and other communications to Congress. Includes a subject index.

Desk Reference on the Presidency: Over 500 Answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Bruce Wetterau. CQ Press. 2000.

Provides quick answers to frequently asked questions about the American presidency. Some of the questions answered are: “Were any presidents actually born in log cabins?” “What is an executive order?” “Who was the first president’s wife to be called first lady?” “Have any presidents decided not to run for another term?” “How does the president lobby Congress?”

Encyclopedia of the American Presidency. 4 vols. Edited by Leonard W. Levy and Louis Fisher. Simon & Schuster. 1994. Out of print.

Contains over 1,000 articles covering the following areas: powers and prerogatives of the presidency, including appointments and removals, vetoes and pardons, foreign affairs and the war power, rulemaking, budgetary and economic duties, and impeachments and scandals; the relationship of the president with other branches of government; the political and party responsibilities of the president; and contemporary events. An excellent resource that is particularly useful for finding summaries of major pieces of legislation a president was involved in and for finding broad overviews of major concepts (such as arms control or the civil service).

The Evolving Presidency: Addresses, Cases, Essays, Letters, Reports, Resolutions, Transcripts, and Other Landmark Documents, 1776-1998. Edited by Michael Nelson. CQ Press. 1999.

Reprints the full text of 43 documents from the 200-year history of the presidency that the book’s editor considers to be the most important. There is a short introduction preceding each document to provide historical context.

Facts About the Presidents, 7th ed. Joseph Nathan Kane, Janet Podell, and Steven Anzovin. H.W. Wilson. 2001.

Lots and lots of “factoids” on each president’s family history, election data, congressional sessions, cabinet and Supreme Court appointments, the vice president, and highlights of the president’s life and administration. The book is divided into two parts: part 1 covers each president individually, and part 2 provides comparative data and statistics on topics such as “age of presidents at death of father and death of mother,” “name of children in the presidents’ families,” and “names of wives’ parents.” Contains a subject index.

Federal Register. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Issued Monday thru Friday. Also [available](#) on the Web.

Contains regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies and the president. These include presidential proclamations and executive orders; rules, proposed rules, and notices issued by the federal agencies; and documents required to be published by an act of Congress and other agency documents of public interest. Final regulations are codified in the ***Code of Federal Regulations*** (see entry).

Federal Regulatory Directory. CQ Press. Published every two years.

Provides directory information on federal agencies, but is especially useful for understanding how the agencies are organized, what their responsibilities are, how they operate, and who's in charge. Describes the history of the agency and regulatory and legislative issues.

Federal Staff Directory. CQ Press. Published three times a year in December, April, and August.

Provides directory information for the executive office of the president, federal agencies, and independent and quasi-official agencies. This directory is unique in that it provides biographical sketches on 2,600 federal executives and staff. A subject index helps find which agencies are in charge of what programs. See also the entries for the ***Federal Yellow Book*** and the ***U.S. Government Manual***.

Federal Yellow Book. Leadership Directories, Inc. Published quarterly.

One of the better single-volume directories of the executive branch, especially because it is updated four times a year. Provides names, titles, office addresses, telephone numbers, Web sites, and e-mail addresses for staff in the executive office of the president, the federal agencies, and independent agencies. Also provides a biographical sketch of the head of each the agencies. See also the entries for the ***Federal Staff Directory*** and the ***U.S. Government Manual***.

Guide to the Presidency, 3rd ed. 2 vols. Michael Nelson. CQ Press. 2002.

The seven major sections of this book cover presidential origins and development; selection and removal; presidential powers; the president and the public; the White House and the executive branch; the chief executive and Congress, the Supreme Court, and the bureaucracy; and biographies of the presidents and vice presidents. There are several appendices that provide lists and statistical information on topics such as electoral college votes, cabinet members, and presidential approval ratings. The full text of selected presidential documents is also included. See also ***Presidency A to Z***.

Historical Encyclopedia of U.S. Independent Counsel Investigations. Edited by Gerald S. Greenberg. Greenwood Press. 2000.

Provides fairly short, encyclopedia-style entries on the individuals who have served as independent counsel investigators; those who have been targets of investigations; all attorney generals who have called for appointment of special prosecutors; all presidents during whose terms of office such prosecutors served; and all legal cases that served to argue for or against the constitutionality of the independent counsel statute. All entries are cross-referenced and there is a bibliography and index.

A Historical Guide to the U.S. Government. Edited by George Thomas Kurian. Oxford University Press. 1998.

Provides paragraph-long to page-long histories of federal government agencies and departments. An appendix contains the full text of basic documents of public administration, such as the Pendleton Act and Freedom of Information Act.

How to Research the Presidency. Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert. CQ Press. 1996.

Describes primary and secondary resources for researching the presidency, including almanacs, bibliographical directories, encyclopedias, indexes, online services, journals, and newspapers.

Independent Counsel: The Law and the Investigations. Charles Johnson and Danette Brickman. CQ Press. 2001.

An overview of the development and death of the independent counsel law. Contains summaries of the investigations conducted under the law and text from the most important Supreme Court cases.

Political Profiles. 5 vols. Facts on File Inc. Out of print.

An outstanding five-volume set covering the key personalities during the administrations of Truman through Ford. Profiles members of Congress, executive branch officials, and newsmakers, describing their contributions and impact during the specific administration. The set obviously needs to be updated, but for the years covered there is no equal.

Volume 1	Truman Years	1978
Volume 2	Eisenhower Years	1977
Volume 3	Kennedy Years	1976
Volume 4	Johnson Years	1976
Volume 5	Nixon/Ford Years	1979

The Presidency A to Z: A Ready Reference Encyclopedia, 3rd ed. Michael Nelson, advisory editor. CQ Press. 2003.

Provides alphabetical, encyclopedia-style entries on the history, processes, people, and events of the presidency. This is basically a condensed version of CQ's ***Guide to the Presidency*** (see entry).

Presidential Scandals. Jeffrey D. Schultz. CQ Press. 2000.

Provides a synopsis of presidential scandals, which are defined as anything that was regarded as scandalous at the time of the president's service or that was uncovered and regarded as scandalous later. The book is arranged chronologically and each chapter includes a bibliography for further reading.

Presidential Vetoes, 1789-1988. Compiled by the Senate Library. 1992. Senate Pub. 102-12. ***Presidential Vetoes, 1989-2000*** (supplement). Compiled by the Senate Library. 2001. Senate Pub. 107-10. [Main publication](#) and [supplement](#) are also available on the Web.

Provides a chronological listing of vetoes from President George Washington through President William J. Clinton that includes the bill number, the subject matter, the date of veto, and any congressional action to override the veto. There is a table of the number of bills vetoed by the presidents back to 1789, and a table of the session dates of each Congress.

The Presidents: A Reference History, 3rd ed. Henry F. Graff, editor. Charles Scribner's Sons. 2002.

Provides substantial profiles of each of the presidents through George W. Bush, written by professional historians or political scientists who are specialists on the president of whom they write. Focuses on the domestic and foreign political events that occurred during each administration.

The Presidents, First Ladies, and Vice Presidents: White House Biographies, 1789-2001. Daniel C. Diller and Stephen L. Robertson. CQ Press. 2001.

Contains biographies and pictures of all the presidents, first ladies, and vice presidents. The biographies of the presidents discuss their early lives, political careers, and the significant events of their presidential terms.

The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1928-1945. 13 vols. Samuel I. Rosenman, editor. Random House. 1938-1950. Out of print.

Contains the texts of FDR's public papers and addresses, as well as lists of his executive orders and proclamations. Includes a combined subject/name index. This series was published privately; see the entry for the ***Public Papers of the Presidents*** for other administrations.

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Published approximately twice a year; each volume covers a six-month period. Also [available](#) on the Web.

The official publication of U.S. presidents' public writings, addresses, and remarks. The series covers the administrations of presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton (the papers of President Franklin Roosevelt were published privately before the ***Public Papers*** series began; see the entry for ***The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt***). In addition to the full texts of the presidents' writings, addresses, and remarks, each volume contains a digest of the president's daily schedule and other announcements, nominations submitted to the Senate, a checklist of releases not printed in full text, and a table of presidential documents published in the daily ***Federal Register***. Volumes contain subject and name indexes and a document categories list.

Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy, 2nd ed. Cornelius M. Kerwin. CQ Press. 1999.

Looks at how agencies make rules, including basic rulemaking procedure, the role of judicial consideration, and public participation in rulemaking. This is not a step-by-step guide to rulemaking, but rather an overview of how the rulemaking process has evolved over the years.

The State of the Union Messages of the Presidents: 1790-1966. 3 vols. Edited by Fred L. Israel. Chelsea House Publishers. 1966. Out of print.

Contains the full text of presidential state of the union messages through 1966.

The United States Government Manual. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Published annually. Also [available](#) on the Web.

A single volume resource that provides personnel listings, organizational charts, and brief histories of the various departments, agencies, boards, and commissions of the federal government. A typical agency description includes a list of principal officials, addresses, and phone numbers; a summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the federal government; a brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority; and a description of its programs and activities. A particularly useful appendix provides a brief history of federal agencies that have been terminated, transferred, or changed in name since March 4, 1933. See also the entries for the ***Federal Staff Directory*** and ***Federal Yellow Book***.

Vital Statistics on the Presidency: Washington to Clinton, rev. ed. Lyn Ragsdale. CQ Press. 1998.

Provides a statistical description of the presidency, covering presidents as individuals, presidential selection, presidential elections, public appearances, public opinions, policy decisions, and the presidential relationship with Congress and the courts.

Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. Issued weekly and indexed quarterly, semiannually, and annually. Also [available](#) on the Web.

The official weekly source of presidential speeches, statements, press conferences, executive orders, proclamations, bill signing statements, veto messages, and other materials released by the White House press secretary. Lists nominations submitted to the Senate, a checklist of White House press releases, and acts approved by the president. A good “first-look” source for White House materials.